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BARING OUR ARM.

THE American Peace Society cannot ignore the fact of our going forth to war. It would not if it could. The thing is on us. We must now see it through. And the terrific battles of the western front call for all possible expedition. Since we decided to bare our arm it was well that we went about it quickly and that we are aiming now to make that arm as effective as possible. The one outstanding question now is, shall Germany defeat us or shall we defeat Germany? It is the German theory against the democratic theory. Our doctrines and prejudices can rest. It is action that is immediately imperative.

We believe in America, in what she has done, is doing, and will do. Mr. Baker, Secretary of War, has returned from six weeks in Europe. He is filled with admiration for the magnitude, the thoroughness, and the spirit with which the American army has done its work. He gives us the impression of the American army in France "as a beehive of the most energetic people," everybody "doing his job with enthusiasm and success." He says our boys are well physically and that their spirits are high and their behavior most admirable. "The healthfulness and wholesomeness about the American army over there is perfectly splendid," he says. "The only sad Americans in France are those who, for any reason, fear they may have to come home before the job is done—officers and men alike." "The big thing for America to do is to support the war—support it financially, support it in sentiment, belief, confidence, and courage. The right arm of America is in France, and it is bared ready for action and striking hard."

No one can doubt the seriousness with which we are going about this business. Practically all of the wool supply of the world is going into sweaters, helmets, wristlets, and stockings for soldiers, and the women are doing the work. We have been charged with only sending one aeroplane abroad; but this is misleading for the reason that there are over one thousand aeroplanes abroad the materials and labor for which came from the United States. That there has been a hitch in our aeroplane production is due to the fault of no one in this country. A member of the Committee on Military Affairs of the House assures us that we shall soon flood the world with aeroplanes and that, from his point of view, the war will be won from the air. We have many thousands of men in France, and we are now in position to increase this number immediately by many more thousands each month. With the rapid increase of our shipping facilities, these thousands will be multiplied. Furthermore, the men we are sending abroad

are fully equipped, five tons of material for every man. We are baring our arm.

The work already accomplished is very impressive. Within a year we have increased our army officers from 9,524 to fourteen times that number and our enlisted men from 202,510 to 1,528,924. We have sixteen cantonments, sixteen camps, numerous aviation fields, and a variety of other schools for the training of our boys. Since the declaration of war, Congress has appropriated approximately seven and a half billion dollars for the War Department alone. The cost of our war operations will in another month reach a grand total of \$21,000,000,000. On October 10, 1917, 187 days after the war was declared, American soldiers were on the firing line in France. The work behind the fighting line in France is likewise impressive. Camps, communications, supply bases, railroads, hospitals, docks, barracks, saw mills, and an ordnance base costing \$25,000,000, these are some of the things that impressed Secretary Baker in France, and will impress us more and more as we come to understand. Our engineers have reconstructed and extended a railroad six hundred miles long extending from the ports of disembarkation to the general bases of operation. The flow of men and materials from the United States to France is steadily increasing, and our unorganized mass of unlimited resources are becoming organized. Our selective-service law has been developed under a principle of local self-government with marked success. Every call made by the military authorities has been promptly met with the number of men desired. By a system of classification within the office of the Provost Marshal General the Government has a record of the special occupational qualifications of every registrant. Fourteen hundred manufacturing establishments are engaged upon ordnance contracts. Plans are under way for the erection of storage space to the amount of 23,307,408 square feet. The Supply Division of the Ordnance Department alone handles material amounting to approximately ten thousand car loads a month. The rate of our rifle production is now forty-five thousand a week. We are producing machine guns at the rate of 225,000 a year. In the list of ordnance purchases we find 23,000,000 hand grenades, 23,000,000 projectiles for all calibers of heavy artillery, 427,246,000 pounds of explosives. Our heavy Browning machine gun can fire 20,000 shots in 48 minutes and 16 seconds. Forty million yards of bobbinet for mosquito bars is one of the items, indicating the complexity in the army requirements. A standardized truck of interchangeable parts, standardized motorcycles, passenger cars, and bicycles are all well under way. Upwards of 650,000,000 feet of lumber have been used in the construction

of cantonments alone. American aviators are now flying in the aggregate over 100,000 miles daily. No one can doubt that the United States is baring her arm. To what extent we shall be supposed to extend these operations, to increase our army, to raise the age limit under the draft, does not yet appear. Secretary Baker, April 24, in his first appearance before the House Military Committee since his return from the Western battle front, said nothing about increasing our army beyond its present authorization, but added that he might appear later with some recommendations. At that hearing Mr. Baker quoted General Foch, French military leader in the command of the Allied forces, as follows: "I am not given to compliments, but what I want to say is that every one of our officers speaks in the very highest terms of the Americans under arms here."

Thus we are about the business. We at home must eat what is set before us and ask no questions for conscience sake. We shall wear what we can get. We shall hand over all that is asked of us. At a time when the very liberties of our America are at stake we shall not so forget our main purpose as even to chatter about the constitution and freedom of speech. Parties and denominations are now wholly insignificant terms. We are baring our arm to the immediate task of winning this war. Our casualty list now numbers over four thousand. No true lover of peace will interfere in any way with the winning and ending of this war.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Immigration Legislation.

Our Department of Labor and our Bureau of Education, not to mention our public schools, are striving with the difficulties of Americanizing our adult alien population. The operations of our selective draft have impressed upon the American mind more effectively than the census has been able to impress it, that illiteracy is more widely prevalent than we had supposed, not only among our aliens, but also among portions of our population of long American standing. Many have become citizens without any proper preparation. Races live in segregated groups of the Ghetto type, where they inbreed and develop in a manner contrary to the spirit of our free institutions, and threaten American standards of living. Our Constitution has not yet been remedied for the protection of aliens, and the differential treatment of Asiatics is permitted to continue in spite of the irritations and dangers which it threatens. So far, our Government has been unable to deal with these facts with justice or comprehension.

Realizing the seriousness of the situation, it is proposed by a group of men, mostly of New York City, to organize a "League for Constructive Immigration Legislation" without definitely subscribing to a set program in advance. These gentlemen are thinking towards regulation of the rate of immigration, a federal bureau for the registration of aliens, a federal bureau for the distribution of immigrants, towards the education of aliens, the protection of the lives and property of aliens, and towards a higher standard of naturalization. When one thousand citizens from all parts of the United States have approved the spirit of this tentative program it is proposed to proceed in a public way to the formation of such a league.

This work is so clearly in the direction of a better international understanding and of a finer inter-racial goodwill, that the ADVOCATE OF PEACE welcomes the efforts of these gentlemen, wishes them godspeed, and promises its co-operation and support.

The Position of an International Law Society Today.

It is increasingly clear that the question before the world today is not whether we shall have this or that form of international law, but rather whether or not international law shall exist. The "Made in Germany" products which we are offered and which the allies are unanimously refusing are not international law but anarchy. We take pleasure in quoting a very clear statement of this situation made by the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law adopted at its meeting in Washington, Saturday, April 27, in which it declares that "the very existence of international law is now at issue." The statement continues:

The Committee on Annual Meeting has therefore refrained from calling the members of the Society from the active work on which most of them are engaged to meet for the discussion of questions of law. The only great question of international law today is whether that law shall continue to exist.

Upon that subject the American Society of International Law reaffirms the clear and unvarying support of the United States for the rule of law, expressed in the recognition of international law in the Federal Constitution, in the decisions of its highest court, and in the utterances of its Chief Magistrates and statesmen.

Mr. Webster, while Secretary of State, made this announcement:

Every nation, on being received, at her own request, into the circle of civilized governments, must understand that she not only attains rights of sovereignty and the dignity of national character, but that she binds herself to the strict and faithful observance of all those principles, laws, and usages which have obtained currency among civilized states, and which have for their object the mitigation of the miseries of war.